THE SHAKERITE

December 20, 2007 • Volume 78 • Issue 4 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

KDI PARAGON
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A Board Over Troubled Waters?

- Power outage causes concern over Woodbury pool chemicals

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CARGILE 4

GETTING PUMPED FOR GAME DAY

RAIDER ZONE EXAMINES WHAT GAME DAY MEANS FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN A MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME

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CONSTRUCTION MISHAP CLOSES SCHOOL

A BURST STEAM PIPE IN THE BOILER ROOM KNOCKED OUT HEAT AND ELECTRICITY, SENDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOME FOR THE DAY.

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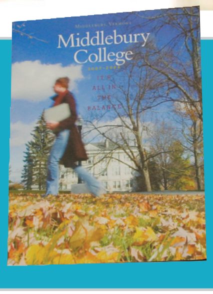
Middlebury College

PILING UP!

SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR LENA NEWMAN DISCUSSES THE VALUE OF THE ENDLESS MAIL SHE RECEIVES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

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COVER SHOT

The Woodbury swimming pool lays dormant Nov. 29 before swim practice. The pool, which hosts both the men and women's high school swim teams, experienced fluctuating chlorine and pH levels following a power outage over Thanksgiving Break. Photo by Su Dong

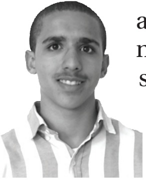
What's Inside

12.20.07

EDITORS' NOTE

Havoc at Harvard

Between resolving international political issues and catching up on two days of missed schoolwork, some of Shaker's Junior Council on World Affairs members found the time to relax, kick their feet up and enjoy a drink or two. Unfortunately, the officials at the 2007 Model United Nations have a rule against the underage consumption of alcohol, and all 46 delegates were sent home.


WESLEY LOWERY

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

Beyond the obvious embarrassment and subsequent punishment of the students, the decision of a few JCWA members to bring alcohol on the school trip reflects negatively on the district. While the successes of organizations that travel nationally and abroad bring prestige to Shaker, their misbehavior and mistakes often eclipse the good in the minds of those both in and out of the district. Students attending future JCWA trips can look forward to being recognized as "that school that got kicked out of Harvard."

The incident also poses a threat to the credibility of Shaker's JCWA. Not only does it severely damage its reputation within the high school, it also hurts its position within the national community of high school model United Nations. The mistake made by a portion of the club's members invalidates the hard work of the club's dedicated delegates. While the trip to Harvard should have been one of the club's yearly highlights, it only furthered the sentiment among students and teachers that JCWA is simply an excuse for students to get away from parents, travel across the country and drink.

JCWA's purging process will be far from fun for those in the organization's leadership. However, the club's dedicated members are capable of repairing their damaged reputation. For many years JCWA has been one of the high school's most popular clubs, attracting those interested in foreign relations, along with those simply interested in missing a few days of school for cross-country trips. We encourage JCWA to better screen members and determine their motives for involving themselves in the club. And while it is impossible to precisely predict if a club member will bring alcohol on a trip, a common sense system should be employed. If someone has been in trouble for substance-related issues, chances are they shouldn't be the person representing our school and community on a national stage.

We also recommend to other clubs that travel to use a similar process in selecting which students attend trips. Clubs can enjoy and benefit from conferences and conventions but a few misbehaving members can quickly ruin it for the entire group.

The rest of the school year will be a difficult time for the remaining JCWA members. But as they strive to resuscitate their organization's tarnished image, they must keep in mind that their efforts will determine its future. Now is the time to turn what has become an organization notorious for facilitating unacceptable behavior back into what it was meant to be, one of the high schools most respectable clubs.

LONE DIVER LEAPS TOWARD VICTORY

A STEADY DECLINE IN PARTICIPATION HAS LEFT SENIOR INNA BURROUGHS AS THE SOLE MEMBER OF THE SHAKER DIVING TEAM

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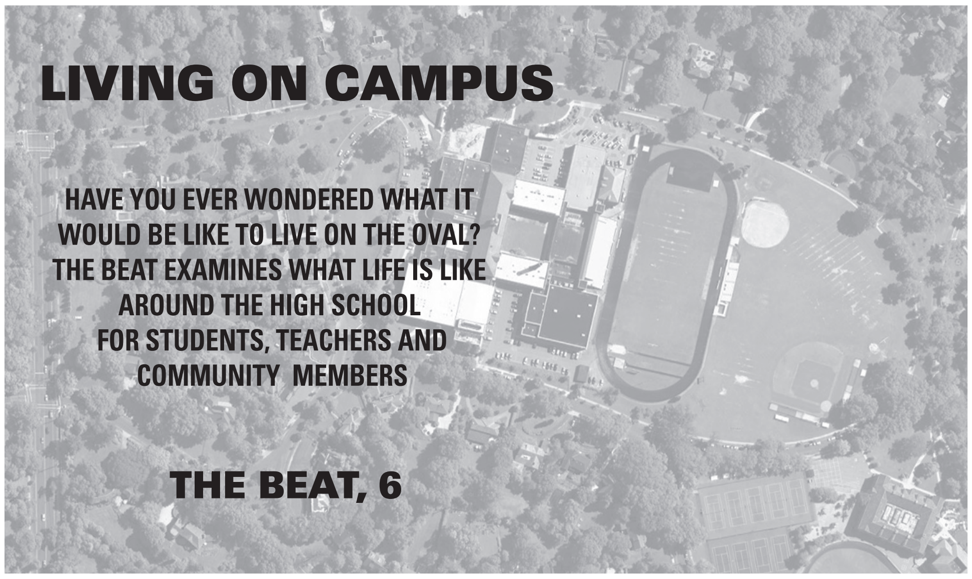
LIVING ON CAMPUS



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO LIVE ON THE OVAL? THE BEAT EXAMINES WHAT LIFE IS LIKE AROUND THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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THE SHAKERITE

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NSPA

heard in the halls

OVERHEARD AND OUT OF CONTEXT

"Stop speaking Jewish." 11/28

Student: "That's You-Tube worthy."
Teacher: "That's You-Tubular!"
12/6

"I don't know what you're doing tonight, but all the cool kids are writing college essays." 11/30

"I was sweating profusely, but what else is new?" 11/30

"I love the hallways sometimes. They're like a moshpit." 11/19

Teacher: "Why was it so hard for the cattle farmers?"
Student: "Because the cattle ate the sheep."
11/27

Student: "Is it twitching now?"
Teacher: "We don't need to feel your twitch." 11/27

"How is that stupid? She shouldn't have sexual intercourse with her lamb!" 11/29

HARVARD LAYS DOWN THE HAMMER

DUE TO STUDENTS BRINGING ALCOHOL, THE JUNIOR COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS WAS KICKED OUT OF A RECENT CONFERENCE AT HARVARD

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EARNEST REVIEW

JOSH DAVIDSON REVIEWS THE FALL PRODUCTION. TURN TO LIMELIGHT TO CHECK OUT HIS OPINION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

LIMELIGHT, 10

JANUARY OVERVIEW

Worried about being bored over break? Think there's nothing to do in Shaker? Well even though school might be out of session for a few weeks, sports are definitely not! Why not try supporting some of Shaker's other winter sports teams? The swim team hosts meets at Woodbury and both basketball teams compete here in the North gym. The women's basketball team made it to the regional semi-finals, so check them out and see if they can play even more competitively this season. The girls play Cleveland Heights, Saturday Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at Heights-- a chance to show your Raider pride. This winter break, remember that even if you're not in school, you can still attend school activities and flaunt your Shaker spirit!

Skiing and snowboarding: the two best ways to enjoy winter weather in JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		New Year's Day 1	2	3	TRIVIA DAY 4	5
6	CLASSES RESUME 7	Men's Basketball vs. Cleveland Heights @ 6 p.m. 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	Wrestling vs. Lakewood @ 5 p.m. 15	16	17	FINALS 8:30-11:30 a.m. Social Studies 1-4 p.m. Math 18	G. Love & Special Sauce at the Agora Ballroom and Theatre at 9 p.m. 19
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 21	FINALS 8:30-11:30 a.m. English 1-4 p.m. Science 22	FINALS 8:30-11:30 a.m. Foreign Language 1-4 p.m. Makeup 23	24	NO SCHOOL Professional Day 25	26
Background image: senior Harold Erkins navigates the slopes. Photo courtesy of Harold Erkins. 27	28	29	30	BACKWARDS DAY 31		

Despite abundance of snow, Shaker lacks school-sponsored ski organization

Having summery weather up until early November left many people fearful that we would never get snow, but rest assured . . . Mother Nature has delivered.

For many students, the first snowfall means two things: skiing and snowboarding. Both winter sports are popular among students, not just at Shaker but throughout the country. Darien High School located in Darien, CT, has a full-blown ski team that will compete in six races throughout the 2007-2008 winter season, and take four overnight ski trips for practice (wonder what goes on there?). It would be great to see Shaker students compete in races, but with no program here at Shaker, it can be difficult for students to hit the slopes.

Shaker hasn't always been without a skiing program. Up until 2006 there was a Ski Club here at the high school, which usually comprised at least 25 students. Science teacher Sharron Sankovich advised Ski Club for three years and was the assistant adviser for six. Sankovich said that Ski Club, which ran from January to March, provided a positive experience for foreign exchange students. The club was most popular for younger students, as Sankovich added that it included mostly freshmen and sophomores. Unfortunately, the club ended after the 2006 winter season because Sankovich could no longer be the adviser. It seems many Shaker students feel the absence of Ski Club.

"I would definitely join Ski Club if there was one." sophomore Sarah Cook said. Cook is not alone. Junior Sam Thompson said he would consider joining Ski Club,"I try to go as much as I can, but lately I haven't had time to hit the slopes," Thompson said.

However, even without a club, there are still plenty of ways for Shaker students to get their winter sports fix. Boston Mills and Brandywine, located in Peninsula (about 40 minutes from Shaker) offer slopes for all levels. If you're just learning, Boston Mills and Brandywine offer a beginner package for $45. It includes an all-day lift ticket for the beginner hills, equipment rental and a group lesson.

And if you find that you're not brave enough to ski or snowboard, try snow tubing. It is exactly what it sounds like; you lie on an inflatable inner tube and slide speedily down the slopes. Snow tubing is offered at Boston Mills and Brandywine, but it is located at a Polar Blast, a separate set of slopes next to Brandywine.

Boston Mills Brandywine Ski Resort in Peninsula features Ohio's steepest slope.

37% of Shaker students prefer skiing to snowboarding.

A scientific telephone poll of 100 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/-10 percent.

Snowboarding made its Olympic debut at the 1998 winter games in Narago, Japan.

Snowblades are the best selling models of burgeoning skiboards. They are often prefered by people who want a bit more control on the slopes.

Compiled by Abby Schiller

RAWNSDALE FIRE KILLS LOMOND STUDENT, TWO OTHER CHILDREN

A house fire that killed three children, Lomond student Imose Ikpia, 6, Chikaora Ogbuji, 2, and Anyachiemcka Ogbuju, 1, resulted from an electric baseboard overheating around 1 a.m. Dec. 1 on Rawnsdale Road. The children were under the care of two baby sitters, ages 11 and 13. The baby sitters escaped from the home by jumping out of a window. According to Assistant Shaker Heights Fire Chief Wayne Johnson, smoke detectors will decrease chances of dying in a house fire by one half. "You should have on in each bedroom, and in hallways . . . they should be tested monthly," he said.

CHLORINE LEVELS WORRY PARENTS

• Some swimmers complain of breathing problems; levels 'within safe limits' after power outage

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

When parents of Shaker swimmers learned chlorine levels in Woodbury Elementary School's pool may have affected some members' breathing, some quickly jumped in with complaints.

During Thanksgiving break, Woodbury School suffered a brief power outage that caused the pool's pumps to fail. The outage caused a backup in the filters that increased the amount of chlorine and other total dissolved solids in the pool.

Practice was altered Nov. 23 when many swimmers complained about breathing. Coach Eric Peterson allowed swimmers to kick only instead of swimming laps. Peterson also implemented more dryland practice, including pushups and abdominal workouts. He allowed those who felt ill to get out of the water.

"About 25 people got out," senior swimmer Ali Russ said. "If people had trouble breathing, then they had a right to get out, but I think a lot of people used it as an excuse to get out of practice."

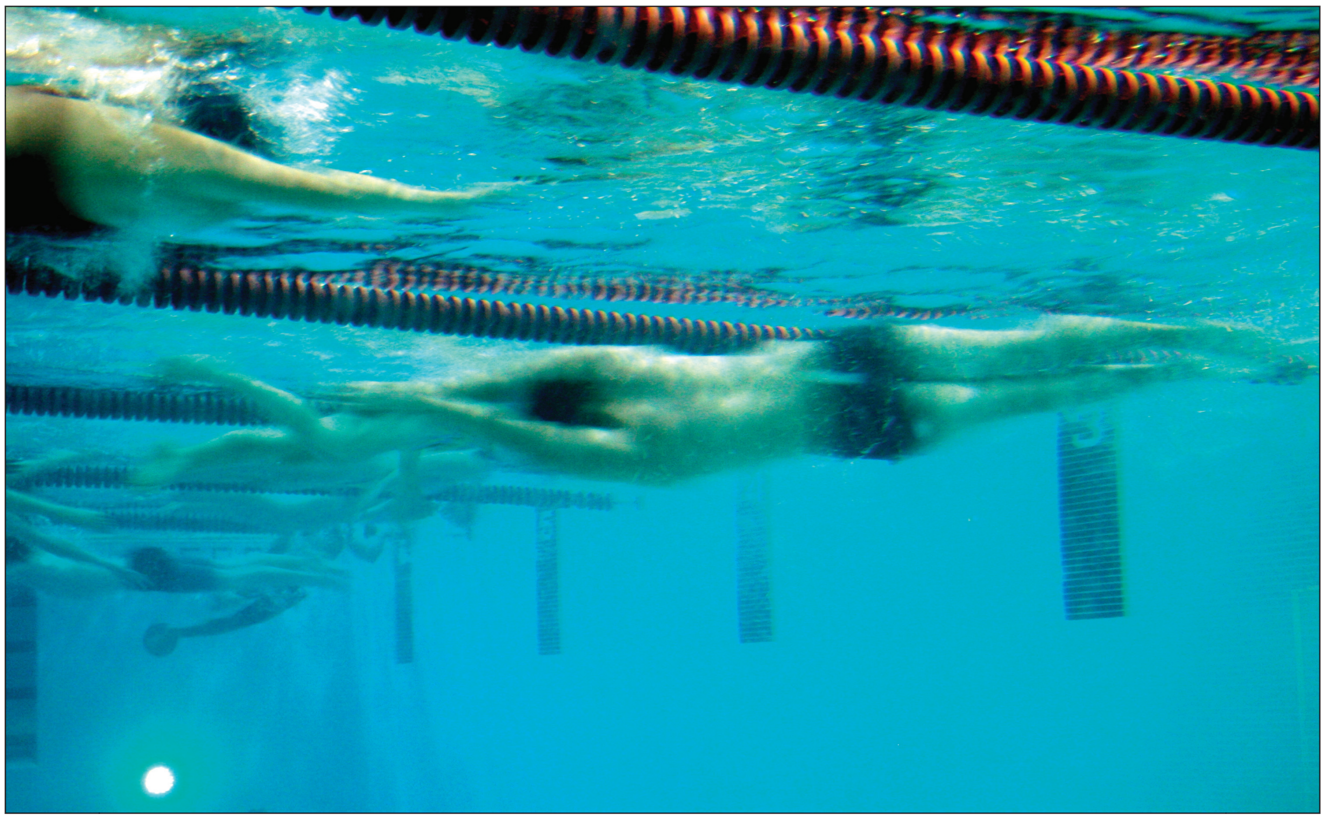
"Things were still within safe limits," Athletic Director Don Readance said. "The city inspector came and double checked the safety of the pool." This did not allay the worries of swim team parent Aleksandra von Seckendorff, who took her complaints to the Administration Building Nov. 26 when school resumed.

"[The maintenance crew] was concerned about not having enough chlorine, but my concern was just the opposite – having too much chlorine in the water," said von Seckendorff, who has been involved in the program for five years and has had concerns about the health of her children before. "There's always a problem over Thanksgiving and winter break," she said. "There is a pattern of putting extra chlorine in pool over break."

The pool did not exceed the safety ranges defined by the state concerning total dissolved solid count. The Ohio Department of Health sets a minimum chlorine level of 1.0 parts per million but no upper limit. A custodian tested the water in the pool Nov. 26 and found the chlorine level to be over 4.0 ppm. According to Shaker Business Administrator Robert Kreiner, the desirable range set by the industry is between 1.0 and 3.0 ppm.

However, Chuck Kunsman, associate director of recreation and wellness services operations at the University of Akron, believes that it is better to have higher chlorine ranges, from 3.0-5.0 ppm.

"There are minimal health risks until chlorine gets very high," Kunsman said. "At 10-15 ppm, swimsuits start to get bleached out and there is not a health hazard before this level."



Su Dong • The Shakerite

SWIM TEAM MEMBERS practice Nov. 23 at Woodbury pool. Coach Eric Peterson allowed those who had breathing difficulties to do dryland exercises.

James Paces, executive director of curriculum, assured von Seckendorff that an outside firm in proper pool care would instruct the new Woodbury maintenance staff."These athletes are giving away their free time to maintain good name for the Shaker swimming team in this area. We need to at least give them a safe environment to do this crazy thing," von Seckendorff said.

The swimmers did feel something was wrong, but that the parental reaction was excessive.

"I know I didn't ask them. Somebody started this email chain that just, like, exploded," senior swimmer Cesare Zannoni said. "It's a good idea to get involved with their kids, but I think they were blaming the coach when really it was an equipment problem. "The water at the Woodbury pool is currently being tested every two to four hours.

"Readings at Woodbury have remained between 2.2 and 2.6," Kreiner stated in a memo.

"The pool's been safe," Peterson said. "We made some adjustments and there has been no danger."

Underage drinking causes JCWA removal from Harvard conference

BY ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shaker Junior Council on World Affairs was expelled from the Harvard Model United Nations Conference Dec. 8 after approximately 10 students were found to have brought or consumed alcohol on the trip.

The Shaker delegation comprised 46 students, including six board members, two advisers and one parent chaperone. Delegates were required to sign a code of conduct before the trip that outlined the club's policy on alcohol. Two students interviewed for this story said they were fully aware of the alcohol rules before violating them.

Stacey Steggert, special education teacher and JCWA adviser, explained how she ad adviser Tony Cuda learned about the drinking. "Students' behavior and a complaint from the hotel gave us reason to be suspicious," Steggert said.

These facts prompted the chaperones to search the delegates' hotel rooms; they found alcohol in some. "We confiscated the alcohol and spoke with individual students and their parents," Steggert said. This allowed the advisers to determine which students had been involved in the incident.

During the investigation, the Harvard staff learned of the violations. "According to the Harvard security rules, one student in possession of alcohol is cause for removal of the entire delegation. We advocated for our students who were not involved to be able to remain in the conference, but our request was denied," Steggert said.

As a result, JCWA was dismissed from the conference and returned to Shaker Dec. 9. Students did not attend the Saturday night dance or the Sunday committee session, and all delegates became ineligible for conference awards. Shaker's dismissal this year does not ban the JCWA from the conference in the future. "My presumption is that a new delegation [from Shaker] next year will be welcome at Harvard," Principal Michael Griffith said.

Junior Gabe Pincus, JCWA undersecretary of policy, expressed frustration. "It was extremely disappointing to find out that we had been kicked out, especially after all the hard work that I put into planning this weekend logistically."

Assistant principals met with the delegates for further questioning Dec. 10. Students found in possession of alcohol were given three-day suspensions and those guilty of consumption were suspended for one day. The consequences are consistent with the school's policy that holds that any school-related drinking issue results in an automatic suspension. Two students who received three-day suspensions said that they felt they deserved their punishments.

Drinking at JCWA conferences is not a new occurrence. "To my knowledge, it has been happening for over a decade," said JCWA secretary general Greg Van Lunteren, a senior who is not one of the suspended students.

JCWA took precautions to discourage participation by students who had been a problem in the past. "We changed the code of conduct to be a little more strict and more harsh on these people for violations. We hoped this would have a discouraging effect on these people," Van Lunteren said. The future for JCWA is unclear. "We recognize that some parents will inevitably remove their kids from the club, but we hope that our dedicated members will remain dedicated and see through this incident," Pincus said.

JCWA is scheduled to attend conferences at Georgetown University in mid-February and Johns Hopkins University in early March.

OVER AT HUDSON...

When preparing for a Hudson school trip, students must finish packing early. For the past 10 years, Hudson has searched the bags of students who plan to travel on an overnight trip. Bags are dropped off at school a day early and lined up in the gym, where teachers, advisers and chaperones search the luggage and open any unsealed bottles. Infrequently, they find alcohol. (One student concealed alcohol in a hairspray bottle). An additional search of backpacks occurs the morning of the trip. Students found with contraband are sent home. Students and parents are informed of the practice in advance and have yet to complain. "It's a deterrent, really," said Sheryl Sheatzley, communications manger for Hudson City Schools.

Electrical fire prompts evacuation, dismissal

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

A blackout during second period Dec. 6 ended with an early dismissal when a fire cut off power, tripping the alarm system at approximately 9:10 a.m.

No students or staff members were injured. One construction worker was taken to the hospital and treated for burns, but was quickly released after treatment.

Students and faculty responded to the alarm in typical fire drill fashion. They evacuated the building in four minutes but then waited outside for 20 to 30 minutes in 20-degree temperatures as emergency vehicles arrived. Students who had been in physical education classes, clad only in T-shirts and shorts, huddled together for warmth.

"Because of weather conditions, we worked with Shaker fire officials to allow students to go back into the school's gymnasium," Superintendent Mark Freeman said Dec. 6 after students returned to the North Gym. "We thought it was the best thing to do considering the weather situation . . . We thought the best thing to do was to get everyone inside as soon as possible," Assistant Principal Neil Glazer said.

About 20 minutes after students sought shelter in the gym, Principal Michael Griffith instructed them through a megaphone to go directly home without visiting lockers or classrooms. "You can't use the microphone system [when the power is out]," Glazer said.

Students who heard the announcement were immediately elated. In a few minutes, word traveled throughout the gym, and students who had secured rides or chose to walk home departed.

Griffith told the remaining students that security personnel were locking down the building to prevent theft.

Some parents were frustrated with communication during the incident. "They didn't bother to tell the kids what was going on," said Karen Helffrich, parent of junior Elizabeth Helffrich and senior Cameron Helffrich "I had to call the police to find out." A text message from Helffrich's son informed her of the situation. She described the overall process as "chaos" and "mayhem." "No one knew what the hell was going on," Helffrich said.

Similarly aggravated, Marlo Bishop-Baston, parent of sophomore Kendrick Bishop and junior Courtney Bishop, wished the process had been safer. "My eleventh-grader had to walk home with only a T-shirt on," she said.

After power had been shut off to the building and the fire department determined no other problems existed, staff was instructed to return to their second period classrooms at 11:22 a.m. Students were allowed to reenter shortly after that to gather their possessions until 4 p.m. After retrieving their property, students who had remained in the gym until then were asked to go home.

Staff members were asked to remain at school as long as possible to ensure the safety of students' belongings until they came back to retrieve them.

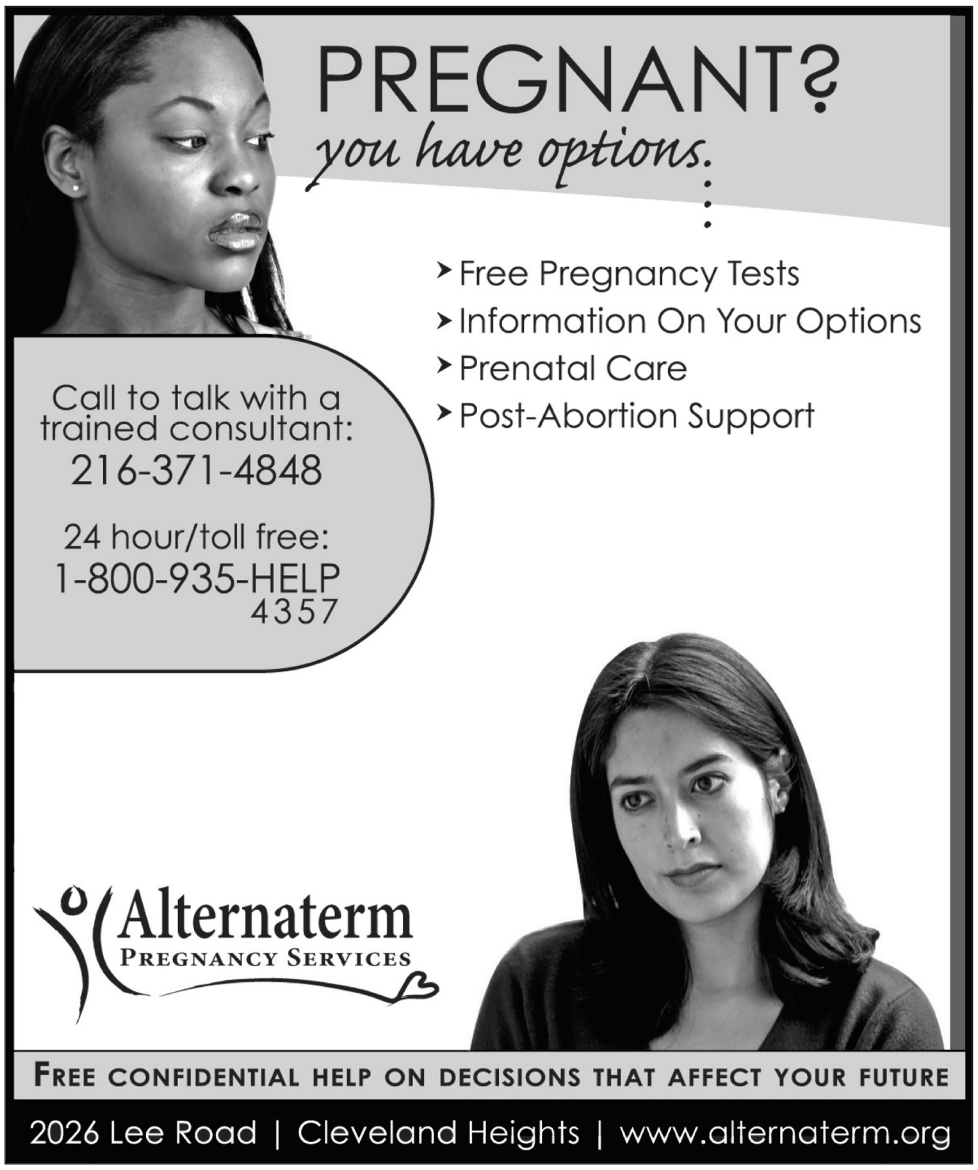
"This event was handled consistent with our established protocol in our critical events manual," said Freeman. The protocols provide specific plans for the dismissal of high school students. In the case of a more serious emergency, students would have been taken to other school buildings such as Woodbury and Onaway.

Many students greeted the event with joy, and some apprehension. "I'm really glad," said freshman Janira Taylor. "Hopefully we won't have to go to school tomorrow."

Classes resumed the next day with most of the power coming from generators. Any tests, projects or assignments due Friday, Dec. 7 were delayed due to the inability of some students to pick up their belongings. Any tests or assignments schedules for Dec. 6 were to be completed Dec. 7.

John Fletcher • The Shakerite

STUDENTS GATHER IN the North Gym after the high school was evacuated Dec. 6. Students stood outside for about 20 to 30 minutes in 20-degree weather before they were directed to the gym. Many were without sweaters or coats, causing frustration to ripple through the crowd. "When I get pneumonia, can't my mother sue?" asked freshman Danielle White. The gym was loud and hectic, and many students were unable to hear the instructions from Principal Michael Griffith, who climbed a ladder on the gym floor and used a megaphone to dismiss school. While some students were able to find rides home and enjoy an almost full day off, roughly 60 students remained in the gym two extra hours waiting for parents and rides. School resumed the next day.



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PRIME REAL ESTATE: LIFE ON THE OVAL

• Although it feels like we spend the better part of our lives on Aldersyde and Onaway, some people actually have to live here. From parking to shortcuts, here's what they think!

Su Dong • The Shakerite

SHAKER STUDENTS MIGRATE from the high school to their houses. Their path cuts through what may be Lynne Bey's driveway.

Students save steps with local shortcut

DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

Does saving five steps make trespassing worth it? Every day after school, many students migrate from the high school campus to Lee Road and proceed to their respective homes. But one of the most curious travel habits involves cutting through the driveway of 16306 Aldersyde Drive, intruding on what may be the private property of a Lynne A. Bey.

Mike Gale, a retired security officer and school security guard said cutting through the yard is technically illegal.

"It is trespassing. They're on someone's property without permission," he said.

However, to students who use it to reduce their steps toward home, the driveway is just a convenient spot to cut through. They don't think anything of the act. Junior Robert Walker, who cuts through the driveway almost every day, said that he isn't really sure why he does it.

"I guess it's just a shortcut, but I don't think anyone lives there," Walker said. Despite letters in the mailbox, newspapers, open windows and a plowed drive, the general sentiment of students is that no one lives in the house on the corner of Aldersyde Drive and Lee Road. Walker, freshmen Kourtney Taylor and Gabrielle Turner all agree that they have never seen anyone in the house and have all been told that no one lives there.

"I'm not entirely sure anyone lives there, because I've seen [students] playing basketball in the backyard before," Turner said.

The Shaker Department of Housing confirmed that Bey is the owner of the house but could not verify if she currently lives there. Telephone calls to the house met with unanswered ringing or a busy tone.

Taylor said whether or not someone lives in the house, it is wrong to cut through the property.

"I [cut through] at the beginning of the year, but then I thought someone lived there. My friend said that no one lives there, but I thought it would be disrespectful if someone did," she said.

Gale said that when he was still a police officer, he used to yell at kids for cutting through the driveway.

"The [house's residents] have complained in the past, and we've sent a car up there to help out . . . They haven't complained in a while," he said. He said he isn't sure if the same people still live there, or if anybody does at all.

According to Turner, another reason that kids cut through the property is because they are lazy. She admits to the same vice.

"It's quicker to walk right there instead of just walking around," she said.

In reality, however, it's about the same distance either way. A Shakerite editor took the driveway shortcut for a total of 52 steps. The same editor took the sidewalk path around the corner in 57 steps. Give or take a few steps for human error and it's pretty even walk.

Nevertheless, for some students, cutting an extra five steps off of their trip home seems to be worth cutting illegally through private property.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Gabe Pincus

Kayla Pincus

Although smokers have negatively influenced how siblings Kayla and Gabe Pincus feel about living on the oval, both agree there are also redeeming qualities about the location of their house.

Freshman Kayla mentioned both good and bad things about her neighborhood. "I hate the freaking smokers," Kayla said. "I don't like walking outside and smelling like Black and Milds, and I hate the litter of the cigarettes." However, Kayla said that she enjoys being able to quickly walk to school in the morning.

"Also, I enjoy the exercise," Kayla said.

Junior Gabe agreed that he likes living on the oval now that he is in high school and is close to both school as well as other convenient locations, such as the tennis courts. "It's also nice to have people come over after school to play football," Gabe said. However, when Gabe was younger, he did not always appreciate the proximity of the school.

"I thought some of the kids looked really weird, like the smokers with the Mohawks," Gabe said.

Compiled by Adria Kinney

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Jack Sutorius

Patrick Sutorius

While brothers Jack and Patrick Sutorius enjoy being able to make quick lunch trips and to easily access anything they forget at home, they dislike the fact that their peers are constantly eager to go to their house.

"What's really good is that I can sleep in until 7:45 and I can go home for lunch," said junior Patrick, who lives across the street from the North Gym parking lot. "I don't have to get rides, which is nice, and if I forget anything or if I don't want to go to class, I can just go home."

However, Patrick also acknowledged the drawbacks of living right across the street. "People always want to come over, and if I don't want to do something it's hard to say no."

Senior Jack agreed that the constant presence of students can sometimes be stressful. "We used to have a trampoline, and one time I was looking out my class window and saw kids jumping on the trampoline," Jack said. "I asked to go to the bathroom and quickly reprimanded them."

Compiled by Adria Kinney

PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

The buzz of student activity that surrounds the high school can be both a blessing and a curse for parents who live on the oval.

John Murphy, father of freshman Cara Murphy, likes his residence overall. "I equate it to living on a college campus," Murphy said. "There's lots of student activity . . . having all of the athletic events that take place is exciting."

Murphy added that he enjoys the open space of the area and that while he dislikes litter, he does not feel that it is a problem unique to the high school neighborhood.

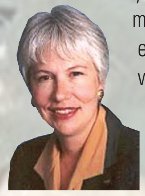
"There's litter everywhere," Murphy said.

Lucia Buffo, an oval resident of three years and mother of sophomore Heather Buffo and senior Lisa Buffo, enjoys every part of living on the oval.

"I just like all the energy from the high school," Buffo said, adding that she loved watching the different athletic events that take place around the high school. "I also love listening to band practice. I really can't think of anything I don't like. . . I haven't had any trouble whatsoever," she said.

Compiled by Adria Kinney

REALTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Jackie Collesi

Irritating and disturbing high school students do not deter house hunters from considering the oval, where the real estate market is still good, according to realtor Jackie Collesi.

Collesi, a real estate agent for Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer in Shaker Heights, has sold a number of houses on Aldersyde Drive and Onaway Road and is familiar with families that reside there currently.

Collesi said that prices for houses around the high school range from about $345,000 to $500,000. While she says that property values around the high school are healthy, homes a couple of streets away are more desirable, and their prices reflect that. While Collesi says that price differences are difficult to estimate, she predicts that a house between South Woodland Road and Shaker Boulevard may be worth up to $50,000 more than a similarly sized one closer to the high school.

Though Collesi has never received complaints about rowdy students from house-hunters or residents around the high school, she said that they do become aggravated by the large number of students in the neighborhood.

"You get [complaints] from people who aren't aware of what life is like there. The traffic is bad. The volume of people is the biggest objection we get," Collesi said.

But for everybody who complains, there is another person who enjoys living on the oval.

"The converse side is the people who love living there, like the Murphy and the Sutorius [families]," Collesi said.

Collesi advises her clients interested in moving to the oval to experience what living around the high school entails just to make sure they're up for the challenge.

"I said drive around either during open or close time and see what it's like, because I don't want people to be surprised," she said. "I would try to show when the school is in session."

While living on the oval may take a certain type of person, or at least some getting used to, Collesi believes that there are still takers for property around the high school.

Compiled by Diana Jack

THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO THE SHAKERITE IN SPRING 2000

Dear Students:

This is a plea for civility addressed to students who travel on Aldersyde.

This street may look quiet, but there are several residents with home offices and several at-home parents, and we really notice your behavior. Here are some incidents, committed by a very few, which have disturbed us and caused us concern about all of you:

- Speeding drivers.
- Vandalism
- damag[ing] a pro-school levy sign

We like being your neighbors. We don't mind when the street is clogged with cars parked during high school events, we enjoy the distant boom of the marching band and seeing athletes running by. We try to look the walkers in the eye and greet them.

We would appreciate your safe and courteous behavior.

Sincerely,
19 Aldersyde residents

Connections on oval provide perfect parking place

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

Students scrambling for the perfect spot on the oval define the parking scene at Shaker, where students typically arrive early to obtain a spot close to school. Yet some students avoid early wake ups and long treks by parking in neighboring driveways.

Senior Adam Murray gets to school around 7:45 or 7:50 a.m. every morning because he parks in the driveway of fellow senior John O'Connell, an oval resident. According to John O'Connell, his family has allowed friends to park in their driveway for about 16 years. The O'Connell family allows six or seven students to park their cars in their driveway. The keys to the cars are kept in the O'Connell's house so that students can move each other's cars if needed. The students used to leave their keys in their cars, but they started storing the keys in the house after 2004 graduate Jacob Wick's car was stolen from the O'Connell driveway.

However, there is a price to pay for parking at the O'Connell house. "There is definitely a favor system in place," John said.

Murray agreed. "We help out Mr. O'Connell just by taking out the trash, or whatever he needs. It's definitely worth it," he said, adding that he was unable to park in the O'Connells' driveway one morning because he had slacked on his leaf-raking duties.

Students who choose to take advantage of her driveway have often disappointed Barbara O'Connell. "They are not as appreciative as they should be . . . they should do a lot more than they do," Barbara O'Connell said. "If Mr. O'Connell asks a small favor, it should get done." Nevertheless, Barbara O'Connell said that they would probably continue to allow students to park in their driveways for many years to come because they have younger children in the school system.

Junior Adam Ratner is another student who saves valuable morning minutes every day by parking in the driveway of a relative who lives on the oval. "Freshman year, my cousin was a senior, and she told me about it," Ratner said. "She hooked me up." In exchange for the parking favor, Ratner takes the newspaper into the house every day

Asked whether or not it was fair that he was able to get to school late, Murray said, "Not really, I guess. . . but it's definitely a convenience."

John Fletcher•The Shakerite

COOKIES CONTINUE TO DUMB DOWN DEMOCRACY

Yankee Magazine is holding an online cookie primary in which people can vote for the best presidential candidate cookie recipe. This competition among edibles is yet another example of the presidential campaigns moving away from issues and toward silliness. It is time for the American public to demand that their candidates no longer focus on personal issues and instead address the issues facing the nation. The candidates' positions on Iraq are more important that Joe Biden's favorite oatmeal cookie recipe or Mitt Romney's wife's Welsh skillet cake.

JCWA board member apologizes for events

To the Editor,

As you might have heard, over the weekend of Dec. 6-9, the Shaker Junior Council on World Affairs traveled to Boston to participate in the 55th annual Harvard Model United Nations. The first few days of committee went smoothly, and the Shaker kids were doing great. We argued with kids from not only all around the U.S., but also with kids who made the trip from as far as Greece, and even China.

However, on Saturday morning, the advisers, Stacey Steggert and Tony Cuda, checked all of the hotel rooms and were disappointed to find alcohol in some of them. The advisers, who graciously filled the empty adviser position at the beginning of the year, were then obliged to notify Harvard Model UN staff and the hotel.

On Saturday evening, Shaker was notified that we were no longer allowed to participate in the conference.

Besides this event, the Shaker delegates had a wonderful time; everyone made new friends with delegates from other schools as well as people within Shaker.

Also, every Shaker representative was able to experience more than 20 hours of substantive debate and acquired an immense amount of experience regarding Parliamentary Procedure, the complicated method in which the United Nations runs. This is what JCWA is about.

Collectively, the members of the Shaker JCWA hope that our good actions speak louder than the mistakes of a few and ask that the great times and wonderful learning that we have experienced are seen as a reflection of the club, rather than the incident that took place at Harvard. Lastly, we apologize for the bad name that we brought home with us as a result of the bad behavior of some of our delegates.

> "Collectively, the members of the Shaker JCWA hope that our good actions speak louder than the mistakes of a few, and ask that the great times and wonderful learning that we have experienced is seen as a reflection of the club, rather than the incident that took place at Harvard."
>
> Kristen Sinicariello
> Junior

I have shared this letter with the JCWA membership and they agree it represents our message to the community.

Sincerely,
Kristen Sinicariello, junior
Board Member JCWA

Owner, graduate, negates instructor's speed advice

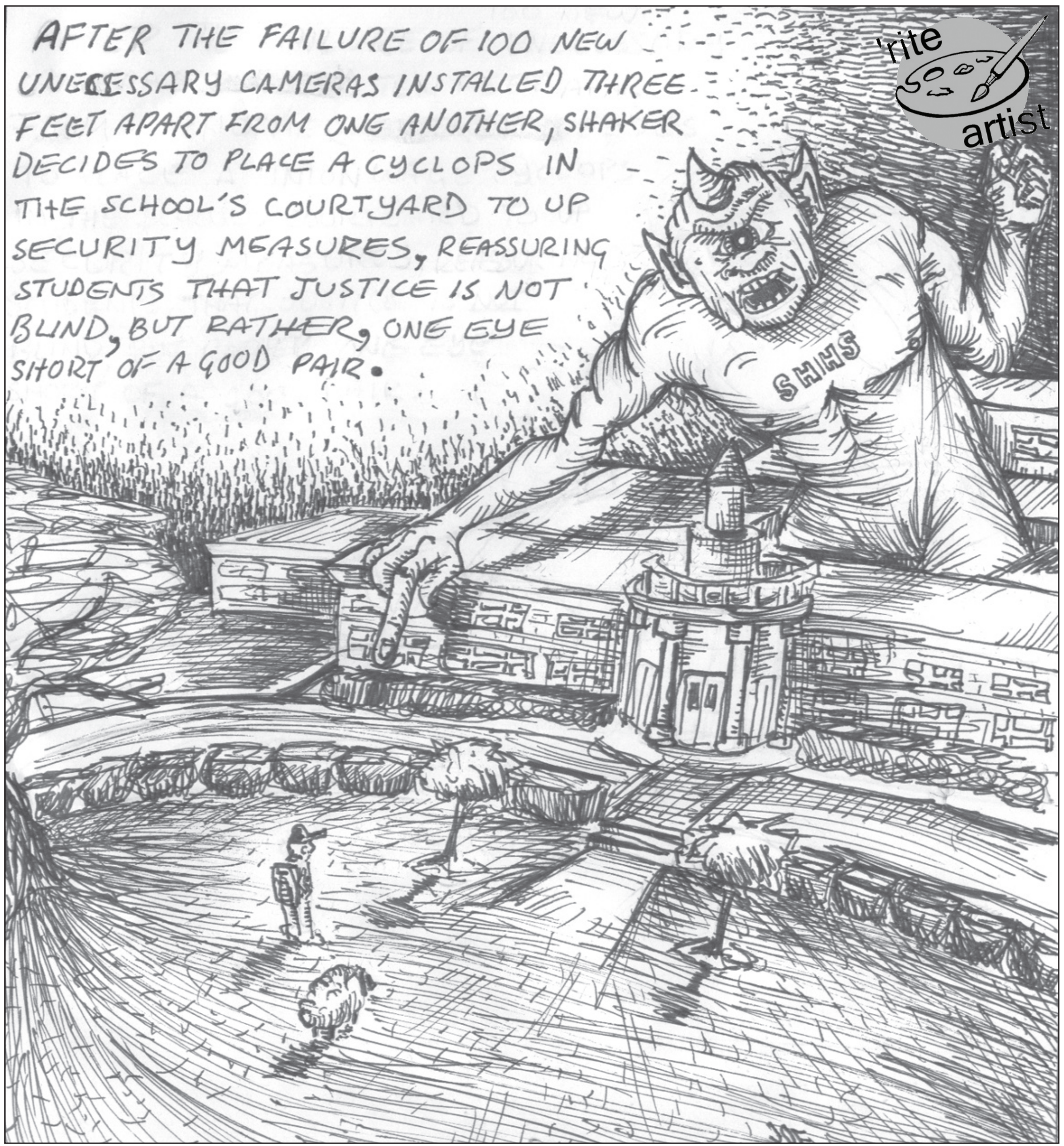
To the Editor,

I want to compliment the editors of The Shakerite for the article in the last issue regarding local driving schools. This was an excellent opportunity for your students to get good information from three different sources about the important topics of teen driving.

I believe, however, that Mr. Peter Ferris' response to the question about the best places to speed in Shaker was not serious enough and I would like to clarify my school and Mr. Ferris' position on this urgent issue. Excessive speed, coupled with inexperience, can be a lethal combination for teen drivers. We work very hard to instill this idea into our students' beliefs about driving. The question may have been asked in fun, but there should be no mistake about the gravity of this issue.

We care for our Shaker students and urge them to always drive within the posted speed limit and to always wear their safety belts.

Sincerely,
Ned Overbeke '64
Authorizing Official


AFTER THE FAILURE OF 100 NEW UNNECESSARY CAMERAS INSTALLED THREE FEET APART FROM ONE ANOTHER, SHAKER DECIDES TO PLACE A CYCLOPS IN THE SCHOOL'S COURTYARD TO UP SECURITY MEASURES, REASSURING STUDENTS THAT JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND, BUT RATHER, ONE EYE SHORT OF A GOOD PAIR.
SHHS
'rite artist

Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

Parents need to step back

It's high time for parents to take a step back from their students' lives.

High school is a critical stage in maturity and a time to learn to be self-sufficient in dealing with responsibility. This developmental process becomes difficult when parents inhibit the growth of their children by being overactive in high school affairs.

While most parents are looking out for their children's best interests, this goal often leads them into territory that should only be occupied by students, teachers and coaches.

Whether this happens through forcing a child into a sport, powerfully guiding the college application process or convincing their youth to sign up for the insanely difficult calculus class, parents are trying harder and harder to live vicariously through their children. This trend starts as early as elementary school.

The ferocious, screaming parent is unavoidable at any youth sporting event, and it is impossible to attend a college tour without encountering the mom or dad who asks all the questions as the child sits silently.

This needs to stop. While high school students are at home, they are under the jurisdiction of their parental units. They can set curfews and assign chores. But at school, we need to be allowed to take care of our actions.

By continuing this trend of protective obsession, our generation will not be ready for the personal responsibilities of college, work and life.

High school is time to grow up, and parents need to let their kids do so.

HELICOPTER PARENTS

The term helicopter parent has arisen to describe this crop of overly involved, entirely obsessed parents. These parents hover over every aspect of their children's lives, manipulating their academic, athletic and social spheres. There is even a "helicopter parent quiz" on collegeboard.com, which is ironic considering that the College Board writes all the AP Exams as well as the SATs, thus feeding these crazed parents' passions. The extremist splinter faction of these "helicopter parents" have been dubbed "blackhawks." Their neurosis? They write their children's college essays.

OVERWHELMED BY VIEWBOOKS AND BROCHURES

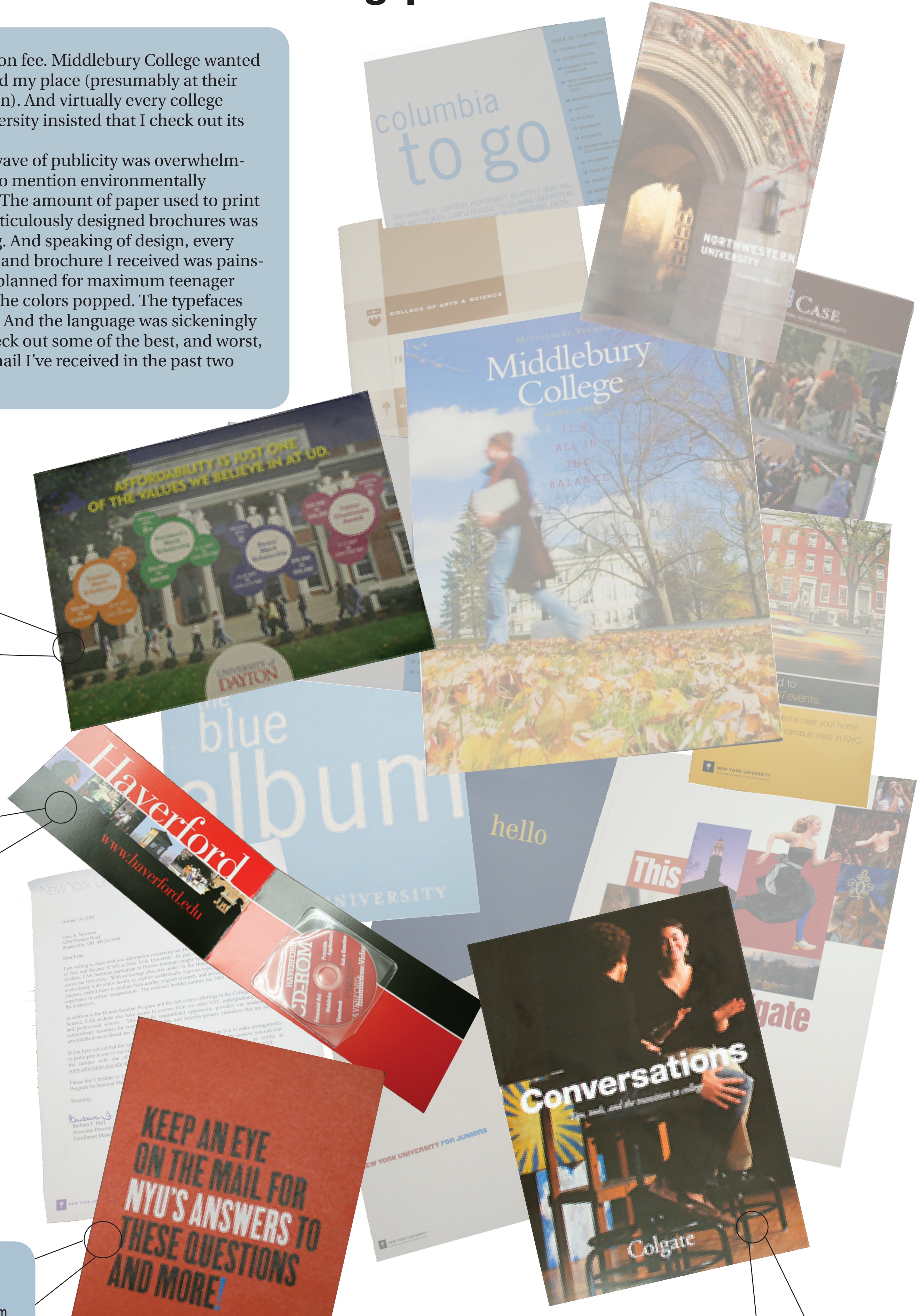
• Colleges need to cut back on mailing promotional literature

LENA NEWMAN

Whatever you do, do not check that box. The one on the PSAT that gives the College Board permission to make your e-mail and home addresses available to colleges that might be interested in you. When I encountered this box in my un-jaded, pre-college search days, I enthusiastically checked it. Of course I wanted colleges to be interested in me. I never imagined that with that check mark, I was unleashing an avalanche of mostly unwanted college mail.

Barnard College and New York University wanted me to visit. The College of Wooster promised to wave my application fee. Middlebury College wanted me to find my place (presumably at their institution). And virtually every college and university insisted that I check out its website.

This wave of publicity was overwhelming, not to mention environmentally harmful. The amount of paper used to print these meticulously designed brochures was appalling. And speaking of design, every postcard and brochure I received was painstakingly planned for maximum teenager appeal. The colors popped. The typefaces were hip. And the language was sickeningly cool. Check out some of the best, and worst, college mail I've received in the past two years.



BROKEN PROMISES

According to University of Dayton's postcard, "Affordability is just one of the values we believe in at UD." While this is definitely a selling point, this postcard falls short for several reasons. That big statement about affordability being just one of University of Dayton's values led me to believe that the others would be somewhere, say, on the back of the postcard; but to no avail. Inquiring minds have to, surprise, surprise, check out the website for more information. Another big failing is the postcard's only image, which is clearly a picture of students and their parents on a tour of the university. They couldn't find any good pictures of actual students? Not a good sign.

OVER THE TOP

Want to know why the price tag on higher education is so steep? It's all the money those schools spend on mail like this. In terms of over the top, Haverford College takes the cake. Instead of sending the basic college viewbook, Haverford went high-tech and sent a brochure with a CD-ROM. The disc includes the viewbook, a printable application, an interactive video and an "ask a question" feature. While I'm guessing a lot of people who got this didn't bother to pop the CD-ROM into their computers, Haverford gets points for a cool, tree-saving idea. On the other hand, all of those CD-ROMs pose an environmental problem. Instead of throwing them away, CD-ROMs should be recycled. The city doesn't collect them as part of its recycling program, but they can be dropped off for recycling at any Radio Shack.

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

New York University wasn't kidding when they sent me a card that read, "Keep an eye on the mail." Admittedly, I specifically signed up to receive mail from NYU when I toured the university, but the volume of cards, letters and brochures far exceeded my expectations. When I was a junior, I got a thick viewbook designed just for juniors and numerous cards encouraging me to visit campus. Senior year, things really picked up with multiple brochures and letters that pretended to be personalized. NYU takes top honors not only for sheer volume of things sent, but also for awesome design. The mass of mail I received from them was so attractive, just paging through the booklets made me want to apply.

GIVING ADVICE

Nothing is more irritating than a college sending you brochure after brochure, each one presenting a different theme. But the most annoying themed brochure, by far, was Colgate's Conversations brochure. This brochure, more accurately described as a book, is subtitled, "Tips, tools and the transition to college." So instead of being overwhelmed with facts, figures and student testimonials about Colgate, Conversations is filled with current students and alumni offering advice. Too bad no one told Colgate high school students have enough people giving them unsolicited advice without a college sending them some in the mail.

Infographic by Lena Newman

TRI-C ROCKS THE HOUSE WITH ANNUAL CONTEST

The House of Blues will play host to the 12th Annual Tri-C High School Rock-Off for this year for the first time. The Rock-Off will be Jan. 11, 2008. The Rock-Off awards the victors a 45-minute performance on Tri-C's cable network, which boasts two Emmy Award-winning programs. On top of the local exposure, the winning band receives $500 cash and a $1000 gift card to Sam Ash Music. Sponsors include cleveland.com, f.y.e., Mountain Dew, 92.3 K-Rock and Time Warner Cable. The Rock-Off is open to all spectators willing to front the $8 ticket charge.

LATIN CLUB CONQUERS COMPETITION

BY SIMONE DUVAL
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

"When we won, of course we screamed like little girls," said senior Max Rothman, Shaker's Latin Club co-president, or consul, if you insist on using the Latin term, when describing the club's recent first-place win at the City Dionysia.

A local competition for high school Latin clubs sponsored by the Classics Department at Case Western Reserve University, the City Dionysia is an opportunity for regional and state high schools to compete for cash prizes via a 15-minute performance of a classical tragedy, according to the department's website. The performances must be based on the ancient Greek or Roman classic play of choice. This year's play was "Hippolytus," the story of the mythological hero Theseus, whose wife falls in love with his illegitimate son. Each school's City Dionysia script must be modernized so the audience can relate to the selected story.

This was the first year Latin Club entered the City Dionysia, or had ever heard of such a competition, due both to the contest's recent creation as well as changes in Latin Club's leadership. The current adviser, Latin teacher Robert White, alerted the club to the contest and the $300 cash prize after receiving information from CWRU, his alma mater. White encouraged the club to go for it.

"[However,] I didn't want to put my thumbprints all over the play. [All I did was] sit in the Small Auditorium during rehearsals, fill out forms . . . [the production] was easily 99.9 percent student-driven," White said.

Senior Susanna Pretzer worked on the script over the summer to be ahead for the months preceding the competition. "It was definitely a lot easier [with a set script] for the actors to have less line changes," Pretzer said.

In her script, Pretzer wanted to explore the flawed side to the characters, especially Hippolytus' faults, which she felt hadn't been emphasized enough in the original tragedy.

"People tend to gloss over Hippolytus' flaws, even though he's really very hateful. It's something that I wanted to show, that he's not a likeable character," Pretzer said.

Pretzer's writing, combined with junior Melissa Freilich's stage directing skills, proved to be a winning combination. Freilich's past theatre experiences really gave the Shaker Latin Club the edge over their two opponents, St. Edward and Garfield Heights high schools. When Freilich learned that she was the first competitor in contest history to request specific dimensions for the performance stage, the club realized that other teams were doing much less sophisticated productions. Without the theatrical element that the Shaker production brought to the table, Latin Club felt that the other teams had no chance in Hades of winning with their skits.

"I think we had a definite advantage since our play was really a play rather than a skit. I almost think we had an unfair advantage because we had some of the expertise of the Shaker Theater Department behind us," Rothman said.

Although the competition's rules allow for a maximum of 12 schools to compete, only three high schools have entered the competition each year since it began in 2004. This has coincidentally guaranteed an automatic cash prize for each team that entered the contest each year. However, for the Shaker cast that participated, it was more about the experience, pride and bragging rights than it ever was about the money.

"I think it was pride that drove us to win. I think it was just being able to prove to ourselves that we could do it," said senior Cyrus Taylor, who played the lead role of Theo Robinson. "Honestly, it's not the winning that I remember; it's the experience of doing it."

Robinson for MAYOR

Courtesy of Latin Club

REBECCA KIMMELFIELD, KIRSTEN Nedrud, Max Rothman and Lindsay Gänder act in "Family Values."

Earnest portrayal of Wilde play

Su Dong • The Shakerite

JUNIOR TEMPEST CHARLES prepares sophomore actress Valerie Kilmer's hair in preparation for a performance of "Earnest." Kilmer portrayed Cecily Cardew.

BY JOSH DAVIDSON
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

5 minute critic

For a play featuring such a silly plot, "The Importance of Being Earnest" was a truly impressive performance.

The late 19th century play by Oscar Wilde tells the story of two men both acting under the pseudonym of Earnest in their romantic pursuits.

The brilliance of the script is Wilde's witty prose, matched only by Shakespeare in genius and humor. Yet it was the cast that made this year's fall production truly wonderful and hilarious.

The impeccable acting of the two leads, seniors Aaron Dunn and Jack Sutorius, was the first aspect of the performance that drew me into the play. From scene one of the duo's dialogue I was amazed at the prowess of these two individuals, who sit next to me in government class.

Remarkable acting resonated through the entire performance. I was especially impressed by freshman Miranda Margolis in her role as Lady Bracknell. This character was crucial to the play's success and though Margolis' seniority in the theater department was non-existent she commanded the stage with brilliance.

Powerful acting was needed to push the story's plot and humor. A comedy, "Earnest" offers little real emotion in the script, yet the cast performed each scene with terrific humor, ensuring an extremely positive experience.

In addition, I was surprised by how well Shaker Theatre adapted to working in the Cleveland Play House. With the Large Auditorium under construction, the department was forced to move the production downtown. If anything I liked the space in the playhouse better because the theater was a smaller, more intimate space, in comparison to the Large Auditorium.

The Theatre Department once again lived up to its reputation as an elite aspect of the high school.

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER FOR SHAKER DIVING

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The diving team can hardly be called a team.

With only one member, senior and second-year diver Inna Burroughs, diving has the lowest participation of any Shaker varsity sport – a fact that can cost the swim team meets.

"It is sad, but true," Burroughs said.

Burroughs

Although she is the only member of the diving team, Burroughs does not compete by herself. In high school competition, divers compete at swim meets as part of the swimming team. Only the top three divers at each school compete at swim meets, and portions of their scores are attributed to their respective swimming teams. This sometimes puts Shaker swimming at a disadvantage.

With no male divers and only one female diver to contribute to their score, the Raiders find themselves behind other schools that have robust diving programs. Of the six schools in the Lake Erie League, three teams, Euclid, Bedford and Mentor, have diving squads.

"If the team we are competing against has divers, they would have the opportunity to score as many as 13 points. We would not be eligible to score any points if we do not enter anyone in the event," swimming coach Eric Peterson said. Shaker's lack of divers cost the men's swimming team wins against St. Ignatius and Orange last year.

The swimming team, however, cannot just send anyone off of the diving board to gain easy points. "There is a rule that states that they must display competence in the dive being performed and reasonable effort, which is determined by the officials," Peterson said.

Burroughs does not take her sport lightly. "Inna is a talented and hard-working diver. We are proud of her perseverance and determination," Peterson said. She practices with coach Lewis Fellinger at John Carroll University every weekday and at Orange High School on Saturdays. Fellinger is also the director of North Coast Diving Club, LLC and the head coach of 11 other Cleveland-area high school diving teams.

"I practice for a total of nine hours a week," Burroughs said.

The diving team was not always as unpopulated as it is this year. "I know that before I joined there were a lot of people," Burroughs said. Peterson states the trend in milder terms. "There does appear to be a slight decline in the number of people interested in the diving program for the last two seasons," he said.

The slight decline, however, cannot be attributed to anything in particular. "These kind of things are mostly cyclical. Some years are stronger than others." Peterson said, "I do not believe diving is dead in Shaker. We have one of the best coaches in Northeast Ohio."

Burroughs speculates that the public does not know that there is a diving team or just does not care.

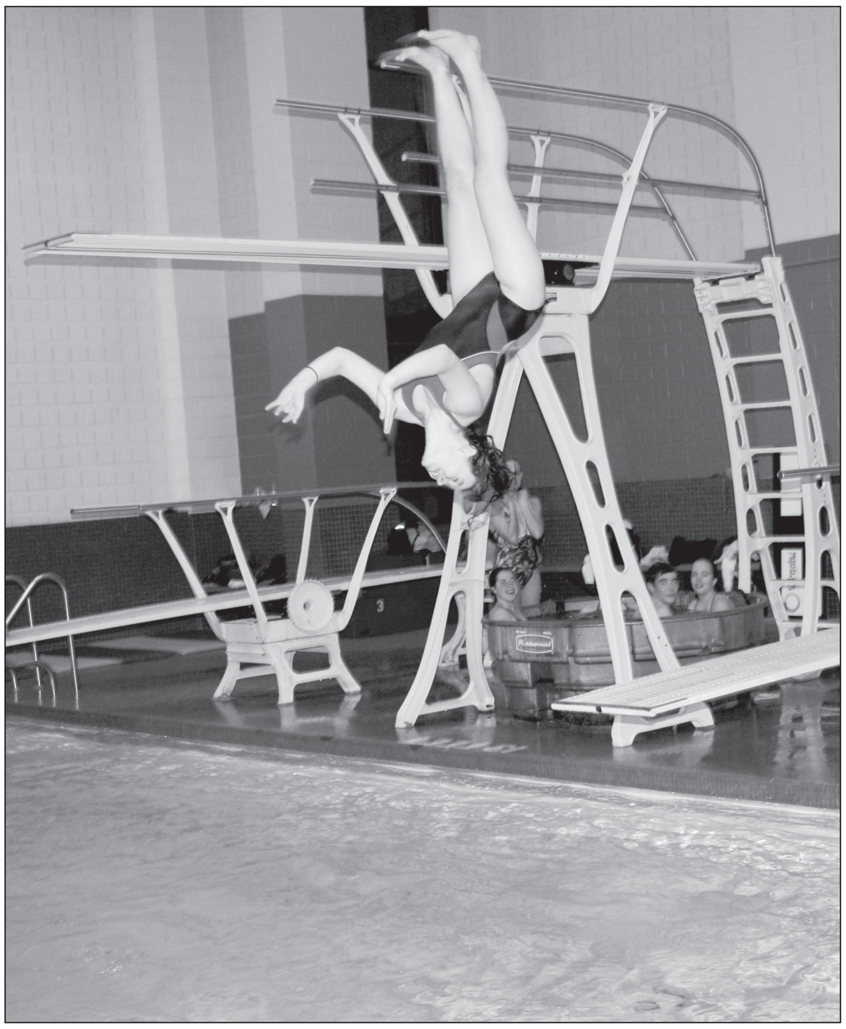
The Shaker Sharks youth swimming program does not offer a youth diving program. Instead they direct all who are interested to North Coast Diving Club.

Senior Juliet Kibbe dove in her first three years of high school but chose not to this year.

"I think the lack of interest is just that people don't know enough about diving, the rules, what it entails and are too afraid to join because they feel like they have no experience. I'm always surprised when I talk to people about it and how much they don't know about the sport," she said.

Kibbe's decision not to dive this year came after she hit the back of her head on the board last year while attempting a front flip. She sustained a serious concussion that lead to a two-month recovery. "I wasn't particularly good and I didn't particularly love it. It just wasn't worth the risk of getting hurt again. I don't think I was meant to be a diver," Kibbe said.

"If people don't join, soon there won't be a team," Burroughs said.


Su Dong • The Shakerite

FLYING OVER THE John Carroll pool, Inna Burroughs eyes her watery landing during practice. Burroughs, who is a second year varsity diver, is the sole member of the Shaker diving team.

Ashford snatches all-Ohio honors; BCS predictions

BUCKEYES' BEST

out of bounds

With the selection of Shaker's **Perez Ashford** to the first team all-Ohio, Ashford joins the likes of Michigan Wolverines star **Mario Manningham** and Ohio State's **Ray Small**, wide receivers who have been named to the first team in the last four years. Ashford is the first Shaker player to be named first team all-Ohio since linebacker **Nick Simon** in 2004. This year, Ashford led the team in receptions, receiving yards, scoring and touchdowns.

TEDDY CAHILL

BCS BOWL PREDICTIONS

Mike	**Teddy**
National Championship: (head) LSU 27, Ohio State 21 (heart) OSU 28, LSU 24	National Championship: OSU 26, LSU 17
Rose: USC 35, Illinois 14	Rose: USC 48, Illinois 6
Sugar: Georgia 42, Hawaii 23	Sugar: Georgia 212, Hawaii 21
Fiesta: Oklahoma 38, West Virginia 10	Fiesta: Oklahoma 32, West Virginia 24
Orange: Virginia Tech 24, Kansas 16	Orange: Virgina Tech 17, Kansas 13

JOSH CURRY

BROWNS TOWN

Kicker **Phil Dawson's** double-doink field goal make against the Baltimore Ravens epitomizes the Browns season to this point. Seemingly every game has come down to the wire. After taking over for the skittish **Charlie Frye**, **Derek Anderson** has shown marked improvement over last year, when he showcased a powerful arm but lacked accuracy. General manager **Phil Savage** made some brilliant moves in the off-season with the signing of guard **Eric Steinbach** and drafting of left tackle **Joe Thomas** to solidify the offensive line, which is by far the best the Browns have had since coming back into the league.

The Browns still have a long way to go to become contenders in the AFC, considering their lack of a pass rush and generally inconsistent defense, but they're young and should be at the top of the AFC North, hopefully, for years to come.

MIKE YOUNG

GEAUX-ING TO NEW ORLEANS

The BCS worked its convoluted magic to determine that the Buckeyes and Tigers will face off in New Orleans Jan. 7, 2008. The Buckeyes finished the season 11-1 through a brisk non-conference and Big Ten schedule. LSU, on the other hand, finished the season at 11-2, grinding through a tough SEC schedule and going 4-0 against the BCS top 25.

This year's game will come down to how both teams perform in the trenches. The speed of Florida's defensive line caught the Buckeyes off-guard in last year's title game, and LSU's **Glenn Dorsey** could pose a similar problem, if he is healthy. If he doesn't recover fully from his knee injury, then LSU will have problems stopping running back **Chris "Beanie" Wells**, who ran for 220 yards against Michigan.

On the LSU side, they need to bring heavy pressure in order to rattle Ohio State quarterback **Todd Boeckman**, who showed no poise and poor decision-making in his final two games. The Tigers can just put eight men in the box and force Boeckman to beat them with the deep ball. LSU's offense has solid depth in their receiving core, yet their quarterback, **Matt Flynn**, consistently lacks the ability to tear apart a defense (completing only 53 percent of his passes). They do have a nice change of pace in the backfield with powerful running back **Jacob Hester**, the fast **Keiland Williams**, and the faster **Trindon Holliday** (and at quarterback when they bring in **Ryan Perrilloux**).

The Buckeyes offense better hope they win the battle up front and be more physical in man coverage against LSU's big wide receivers. If they don't, it could be another long night for OSU.

COLLEGE BOUND: SHAKER'S DIVISION I COMMITMENTS

Maggie O'Connor
Field hockey
Columbia

Anthony Wells
Basketball
Cleveland State

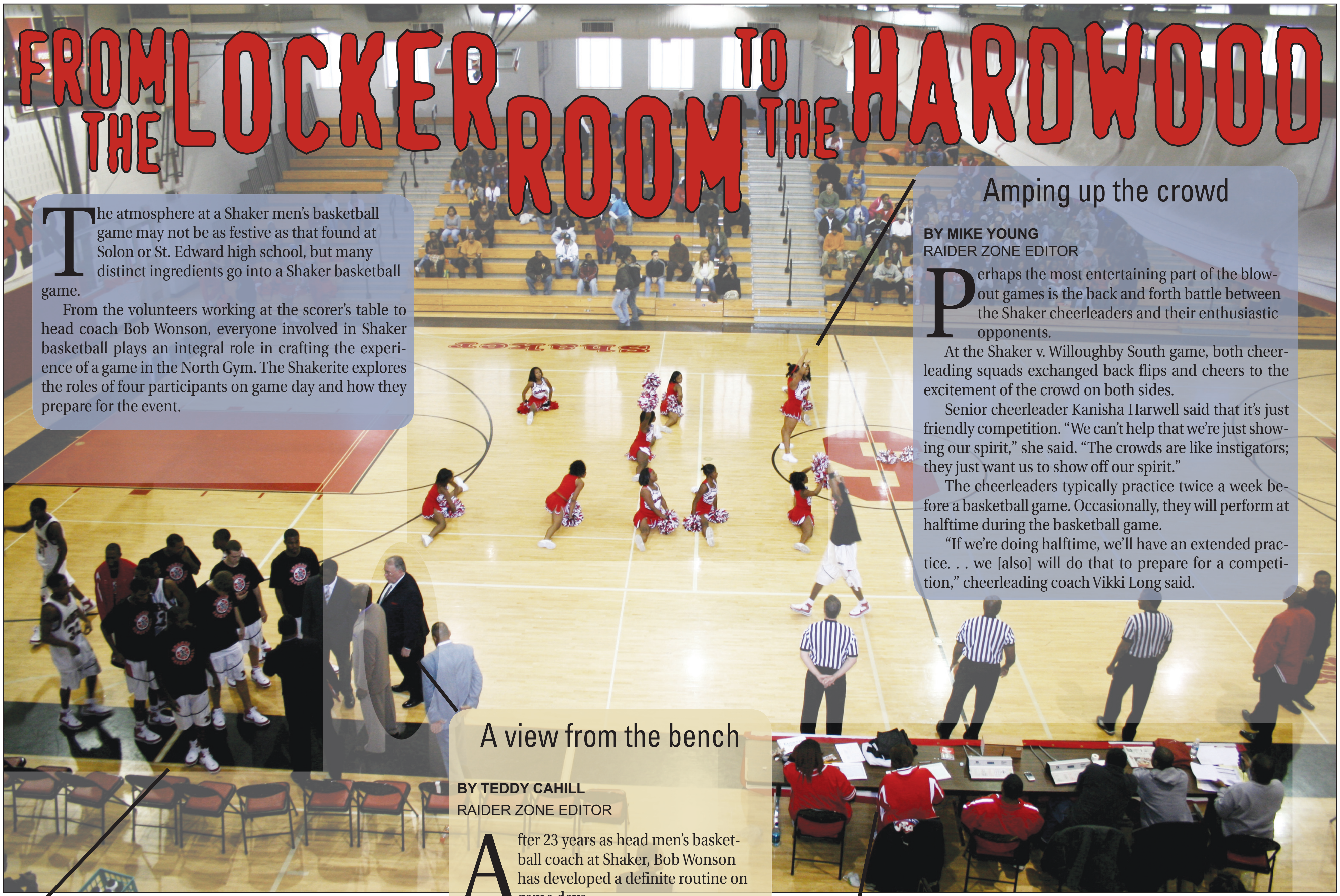
Lillian Pitts
Basketball
Miami University

River McWilliams
Baseball
Buffalo

SHAKER'S OWN "TERRIBLE TOWELS"

Following the trend of the Indians and Cavaliers, the Shaker hockey team sold white rally towels for fans to wave at the University School game. Senior forward Julian Bruell and junior goaltender Ben Giller came up with the idea and sought approval from Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson. "We were talking about ideas for school spirit, then we talked to Hutch," Bruell said. "We want to keep doing it every year and want to do it for all winter sports." Each towel cost $2. Proceeds will go to Coats for Kids and the Salvation Army.

FROM THE LOCKER ROOM TO THE HARDWOOD



Su Dong • The Shakerite

The atmosphere at a Shaker men's basketball game may not be as festive as that found at Solon or St. Edward high school, but many distinct ingredients go into a Shaker basketball game.

From the volunteers working at the scorer's table to head coach Bob Wonson, everyone involved in Shaker basketball plays an integral role in crafting the experience of a game in the North Gym. The Shakerite explores the roles of four participants on game day and how they prepare for the event.

Amping up the crowd

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Perhaps the most entertaining part of the blowout games is the back and forth battle between the Shaker cheerleaders and their enthusiastic opponents.

At the Shaker v. Willoughby South game, both cheerleading squads exchanged back flips and cheers to the excitement of the crowd on both sides.

Senior cheerleader Kanisha Harwell said that it's just friendly competition. "We can't help that we're just showing our spirit," she said. "The crowds are like instigators; they just want us to show off our spirit."

The cheerleaders typically practice twice a week before a basketball game. Occasionally, they will perform at halftime during the basketball game.

"If we're doing halftime, we'll have an extended practice. . . we [also] will do that to prepare for a competition," cheerleading coach Vikki Long said.

Running the floor

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

For Shaker men's basketball fans, game day begins when the team runs out onto the court to Juelz Santana's "Second Coming." However, for the members of the team, game day begins much earlier.

Senior guard Jeremy Hill tries to calm himself down before heading out on the floor. "I think about not playing scared, he said. "Then I try to relax . . . maybe listen to music before the game . . . usually Jay-Z."

When he takes the floor for warm-ups, Hill just wants to break a sweat. "I just try and get loose and get a feel for my jump shot," he said. "I work on taking threes."

This season marks Hill's first on the varsity squad, after starting for junior varsity last season. Hill is more comfortable coming off the bench for varsity, however.

"It's more relaxing," Hill said. "It just easier to come off the bench."

A view from the bench

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After 23 years as head men's basketball coach at Shaker, Bob Wonson has developed a definite routine on game days.

"I leave school after my last class and go home," Wonson said. "I write a pre-game talk that takes half an hour to 45 minutes."

Wonson then showers and shaves, because he doesn't shave the morning before a game. He also may look over game film if Shaker has played the team before during the season. The routine varies slightly depending on the location of the game. If it is at home, Wonson and his wife take their dog for a walk, but if the game is on the road, Mary Anne Wonson hands out pregame snacks to the players. Wonson, however, doesn't eat.

"I'm too nervous to eat before a game," he said.

When Wonson arrives at the game he usually watches the JV game until there are six minutes left in the fourth quarter. When the players are changed he allows any players or coaches who wish to say something to the team to speak. Then the coach asks everyone to be silent and reflect before the game.

"I say a little prayer for myself," Wonson said. "I pray to be on good behavior and to not act like a fool. Sometimes it works better than others."

Sitting at the scorer's table

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Mary Anne Wonson, math teacher and wife of men's head basketball coach Bob Wonson, takes number crunching outside of her math classes and onto the court.

During basketball games, she records statistics for the men's basketball team, keeping track of points, rebounds and various other statistics for the team.

"I have to focus on the ball and who has the ball," she said. "I can't really concentrate on the game, just who's going in and out, how many fouls they've committed and I have to keep track of possessions."

The opposing team's scorekeeper usually joins Mary Anne Wonson at the scorer's table.

At home games, Al Foster operates the scoreboard on both ends of the arena. Eddie Harris, who also operates the scoreboard at home football games, keeps track of the clock.

"[Harris] has the toughest job," Mary Anne Wonson said. "He has to focus on the refs and shut out all the outside distractions."

Bryant Kizer became the permanent public address announcer at home varsity games this season. Kizer volunteered for the job at the beginning of the year and has 10 years of experience at John Hay High School and John F. Kennedy High School.